

May 17, 1916.

Since the bulletin of February 14 was issued no radical changes in the missionary situation in Turkey have taken place, excepting, of course, the aggressions of Russia, whereby Erzroom, Bitlis and Trebizond have, like Van, been occupied and a large part of Armenia and Kurdistan come under Russian control.

No word has come from Dr. and Mrs. Crawford of Trebizond since the Turks evacuated the city. We have no reason, however, to feel that they have suffered in any special way in the change of masters. Word was received from them shortly before the city fell. They were then in good health. Our expectation now is that they will start home upon furlough this summer.

Mr. and Mrs. Stapleton remained in Erzroom after the Russians broke through the lines. The Turkish Governor offered them carriages in which to leave the city, but they preferred to remain with the people. By this time probably they are on their way home by way of Siberia and Japan. So far as we can ascertain there was no fighting in or near the city of Erzroom when the Russians captured the fortress.

There were no missionaries in Bitlis when that city was captured, Miss McLaren and Miss Shane having gone to Harpoot under the escort of the Cavass of the United States Consul at Harpoot.

For some time it has been known that Messrs. Wilson and Hill of the Relief Commission were on their way to Van and that Messrs. Macallum and Gracey, missionaries of the Board, were following. Now word has come through Switzerland friends of the arrival of Dr. Macallum at Van. This is the first visitation of Van since the missionaries were compelled to flee, and naturally we are eager to get news regarding the situation. It is the policy of the Prudential Committee to permit the missionaries to return to Eastern Turkey by way of Petrograd and it is naturally the hope that in due time Van, Bitlis and Erzroom may be re-occupied. The missionaries first will render a large service in helping the Armenians who are returning to their homes, as well as in re-organizing the missionary work which has been temporarily suspended under the stress and strain of the war. We would suggest that this rehabilitation work be made a special subject of prayer on the part of the friends of the work in the Near East.

The situation in the other stations of Eastern Turkey seems to be about the same as it was when the last bulletin was issued. There has been no particular change at Harpoot. The party that left there for home on the 15th of November is still held at Beirut, no vessel being allowed to enter the harbor. Negotiations are in process toward getting them and probably the Aintab missionaries out by way of Smyrna. The Beirut party is now comfortably housed and all are apparently in good health. An attempt is being made through the Embassy to have the five ladies at Mardin brought to Sivas, thus closing another station. The missionaries are well at Marash, Tarsus, Hadjin, and, so far as we know, elsewhere in the Central Turkey field. according to Mr. Peet's letter of March 24, the work at Aintab seems to be

well nigh broken up. The College is closed, part of the buildings of the girls' seminary are used for a hospital, and the orphanages remain. The girls' seminary continues its work, however, in restricted quarters. After all we are thankful for the measure of protection that the missionaries enjoy; nor should we be unmindful of the consideration shown the missionaries by the authorities. The hospital at Adana has been opened under an arrangement with the Government which we suspect contains an agreement to operate the hospital solely for the advantage of the military department. There are no other changes to mention in the Central Turkey field.

As for Western Turkey, the situation remains but little changed. The missionaries are still at Sivas. The Government refuses to allow Dr. Andrus and Miss Fenenga to return to Mardin.

The situation at Talas is as reported before. Dr. and Mrs. Dodd of Konia left Constantinople on Saturday, the 29th of April, Konia hospital remaining closed. Messrs. Birge and Harlow of Smyrna are expected this summer in spite of rumors to the contrary. Their wives and children have been in this country for some time. The International College at Smyrna seems to have had an excellent year, being perhaps more successful than any other institution. The Dean of the College, Mr. Cass Reed, has become engaged to Miss Rosalind MacLachlan, the President's daughter, and the latter has received appointment as an American Board missionary in expectation of her marriage to Mr. Reed this summer.

Mr. Charles Riggs left Constantinople on March 25, accompanying Miss Hale and Mrs. Luther Fowle and children. The party arrived in New York after only nineteen days of travel, coming by way of Berlin. Mr. Ryan and family went to Switzerland last winter, but when Mr. Ryan returned to his work at Constantinople this spring he was compelled by the Government to withdraw after only fifteen days' stay there. He and his family have now arrived in America. Dr. Bowen, the Agent of the American Bible Society in the Levant, with Mrs. Bowen, is now in Switzerland.

Dr. St. John Ward who sailed in February from New York with Red Cross supplies and a group of Red Cross workers in the expectation of going directly to Beirut, was detained with his entire party in Greece. He was able, however, after a while to reach Constantinople, though without supplies and without any other members of the party. The latter are still waiting in Greece for permission to enter Turkey.

Ambassador Morgenthau has decided not to return to Turkey. While there is much disappointment over his withdrawal from Constantinople, the fact should be emphasized that the man suggested as his successor is said to be remarkably well fitted for reconstruction work following the war. The new Ambassador, however, has not yet been appointed and meanwhile the American interests are in the hands of the Charge' d'Affaires, Mr. Philip, who has been for some time connected with the Embassy and is therefore conversant with the entire situation. Naturally we hope that whoever may be appointed to succeed Dr. Morgenthau will be well coached by the latter and, with the latter in this country available as an adviser, will be able to safeguard the institutions and the work in Turkey even better than if Dr. Morgenthau worked alone in Constantinople.

The most recent reports from all of the Turkey Missions speak of the good health of the missionaries. So far as is known none are ill. While they are strictly limited in their activity and are deprived of the "luxuries of life," they report, nevertheless, that they are supplied with necessities for some months to come. There is a greater scarcity of food in Constantinople than in the Interior, if we rightly judge accounts. The press censorship is becoming more exacting and there are some indications that the letters from the American Board are especially scanned. For some time pressure has been brought to bear upon Mr. Peet to refrain from paying money to individual Armenians and recently a cable dispatch was received announcing that he was forbidden altogether to do this any longer, the Government being suspicious of him as a partner in revolutionary movements. We therefore have to announce that the American Board cannot receive any more money to transmit for individual Armenians anywhere in the Turkish Empire, though the way is still open to relieve Armenians in the Caucasus through the Relief Committee.

It begins to look as if the Russian occupation of Eastern Turkey were bound to be permanent and that Harpoot and Mardin and other portions of what was once the Eastern Turkey field will soon be occupied. Turkish hopes for help from America are still strong. Turkey would like American money and influence minus the American missionary. Whether our work will be generally appreciated and prized by the official class depends upon whether the principles of the present party shall be perpetuated or whether a party possessed of more liberal principles shall come to power.

#### BALKANS

In view of the very strict internal censorship and general air of suspiciousness in Bulgaria, station reports and church statistics are not being sent to Boston. Traveling is not easy, but is safe when a permit can be secured. The schools are running as usual. The officials at Monastir seems friendly. There is no light on the Albanian situation. On or about April 18th the main school building at the Salonica Institute was accidentally destroyed by fire. No lives were lost. The missionaries are now living in other buildings at the "Farm." All are well.

E. F. Bell,

for Dr. Barton.